

K12 Snapshot: Middle School Success

Classroom and e-learning model boosts reading levels



Since 2018 Hillsborough County Public Schools have been using BrightFish Reading to improve reading proficiency in FSA Level 1 students in grades 6, 7 and 8. Their proven fidelity model is delivering results for struggling readers.

Blended Learning: Classes of 5-25 students access BrightFish Reading using classroom laptops and media lab computers. BrightFish Reading sessions are scheduled for a minimum of 45 minutes a week. E-learning students also use the program as part of their remote instruction from home.

Expectations and Rewards: Students are expected to finish at least one story unit every two weeks. High achievers are awarded "caught reading" tickets to spend in the school store. Teachers use a variety of motivational tools to keep students engaged. Donated gift cards from local businesses provide additional incentives (e.g. BOGO certificates from a local ice cream shop).

Online Monitoring: Whether students are working from home or in class, teachers monitor their progress from a single online dashboard. Data can be viewed in weekly, monthly, or custom time ranges. Convenient summary data and detailed views enable teachers to drill down to individual errors for remediation.



Implementation Model

- 51 middle school campuses use BrightFish Reading in Hillsborough County Public Schools for FSA level 1 students.
- Students access BrightFish Reading through their district Clever portal for secure single sign-on (SSO) from school or at home. The minimum weekly usage is once per week for 45 minutes.
- Students using BrightFish Reading include English learners, students with IEPs, and economically disadvantaged subgroups.

"BrightFish Reading sets struggling readers up for success by starting with text-based automaticity and vocabulary prior to jumping into comprehension skills. Our teachers love the ease of accessing data with progress monitoring alerts and the ability to drill down into the program to see exactly what errors students are making and where they need support."

- Brooke W., Middle School Reading Coach



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HOW IT WORKS!



1 Construct content and build skills

Fiction and nonfiction passages are assigned to a grade level by Lexile® measure and broken down into manageable chunks.

Fluency: A reading passage with words like "are also called" in various colors. Below it, a progress bar shows 1 / 14 and a red "5" button.

Vocabulary: A "Fill in the Blanks" activity with sentences like "The train stopped [] at that station." and a word bank with "anomous, powerful, scared, rogue, overwhelmed, intense, prove, frequently".

Comprehension: An activity about "Spotted Hyenas" with a photo, a video player, and a graphic organizer. It includes text: "Often, experts can have very different opinions about... Watch the video clip and complete the graphic organizer to show your understanding of the differences in opinion in the text." Below is a graph titled "TEST" with "80%" and "100%" marked.

Students develop word and phrase fluency – fast and accurate.

Direct instruction and practice build contextual understanding.

Activities tap knowledge and critical thinking skills while increasing confidence with online testing.



2 Practice, motivate, improve

Constructive feedback provides instructional support while gaming techniques and points-based rewards ensure students stay motivated to read and improve.

The dashboard shows a circular icon with "Your ranking: 3" and a bar chart. Below is a table of "Top 10 students":

Rank	Student	Country	School	Points
1	Peyton.H	USA	Demo school	27,808
2	Faith.L	USA	Demo school	17,805
3	Keira.T	USA	Demo school	16,349
4	Nasir.G	USA	Demo school	15,725
5	Bryson.S	USA	Demo school	14,175
6	Elijah.M	USA	Demo school	13,358
7	Jai Kai.W	USA	Demo school	11,208
8	Kahrin.R	USA	Demo school	9,500
9	Melchi.G	USA	Demo school	8,441



3 Track results & remediate

Teachers view class progress in real time with color-coded reports and drill-down details. Data can be used for remediation and small group instruction.

The interface shows "Training Details" for "All Grade - Henry (G4)". It includes sections for "Word Fluency", "Vocabulary", "Mastery Word Usage", "Comprehension", and "Comprehension Essays". Below are "StoryLevel" reports for "Messa Verdi's Grill", "The Fox and the Goat (G4)", "Nicky Universe (G4)", "Cain Classroom", and "The Fox and the Goat (G4)". Each report shows progress percentages for each student.

"While relatively new to BrightFish Reading, I've been able to establish consistency and help my teachers and students use the program with fidelity. This was only possible because of the amazing support from BrightFish Learning. My MANY questions are always readily answered and creative suggestions to increase program usage have made all the difference."

-T. Lindsey, Middle School Reading Coach

Schedule a demo or learn more about our special middle school offers! Send an email to info@brightfishlearning.com. Or sign up for the free trial: brightfishlearning.com/brightfish-free/

